



AMETHYST PRINCESS OF GE'ORL'D

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IT
STARTS
HERE...



A
NIGHTMARE
JOURNEY OF
DISCOVERY!



Color: Keela

HUDSON, NY:

CAN THIS BE
THE ONE MY
MASTERS FEAR
SO GREATLY?



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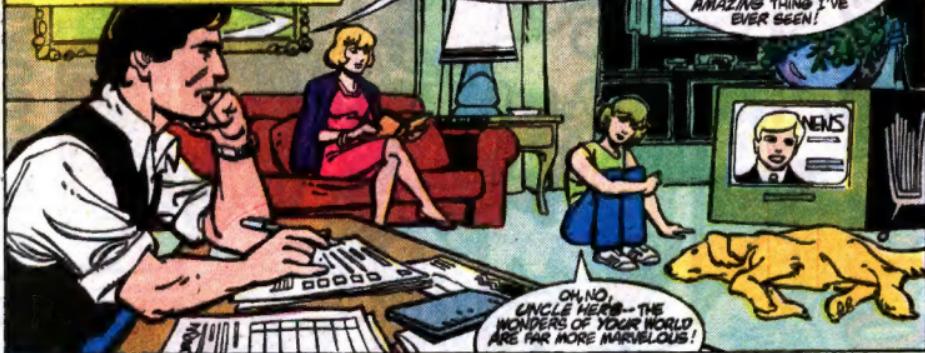


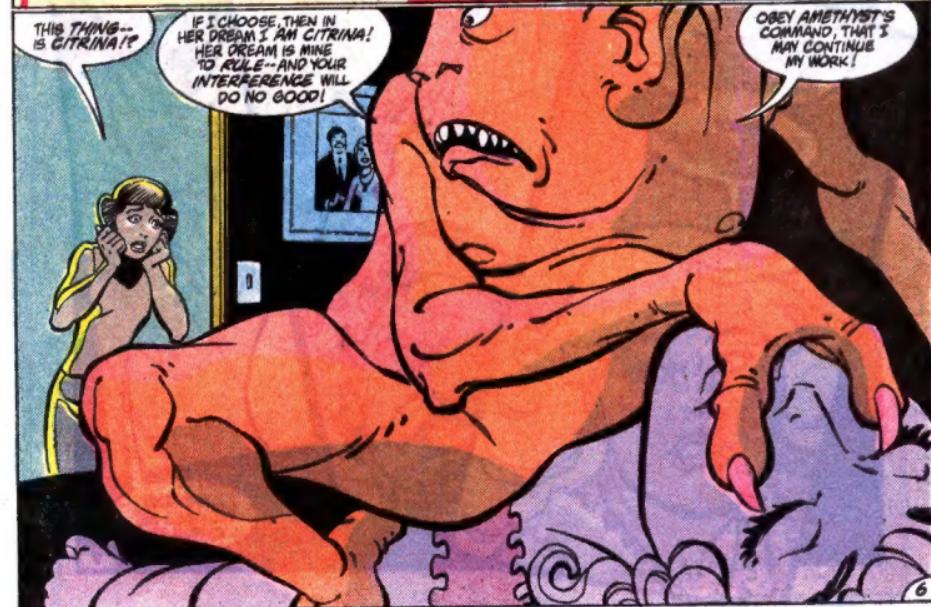
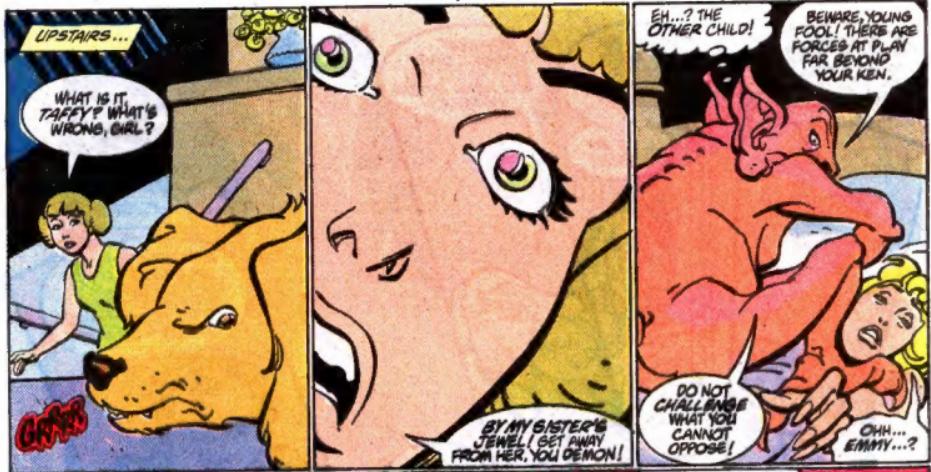
CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING.

THE MYSTIC REALM OF GEMWORLD GLITTERS INMEASURABLY FAR FROM EARTH--YET IT ALSO STANDS BUT AN EYEBLINK AWAY, DOWNSTARS IN THE MINGSTON HOME...

IT WOULD BE HARD ENOUGH TO CONCENTRATE ON THESE ESSAYS IF THEY WERE GOOD...

...MAYBE EMMY COULD USE HER GEMWORLD POWERS TO MAGICALLY GRADE THEM. THAT ABILITY IS THE MOST AMAZING THING I'VE EVER SEEN!







BEHOLD YOUR MOMENTS,
AMETHYST!

BEHOLD THE END OF ONE
WHO CHALLENGED YOUR
WORLD—FIRE JADE! NOT
SO MUCH A BEING OF EVIL
AS ONE OF TORMENT AND
TRAGEDY!

BEHOLD BUT A
MOMENT EARLIER, AS
YOUR ALLIES SARDONYX
AND PRINCE GARNET
LIBERATE THE SARD
REALM FROM FIRE
JADE'S SNARE!

BUT--BUT
YOU WEREN'T
THERE, CITRINA! YOU
WERE SICK--
DYING...!

AND
YET I SAW,
AND STILL DO SEE!
WHY WASN'T IT BUT
ANOTHER MOMENT
BEFORE THAT THIS
SAME FIRE JADE DID
ENTHRALL YOUR
LOVE, YOUNG
TOPAZ?

"AND DID SHE NOT
BEDEVIL OUR POOR
WORLD WITH STORMS
THAT THREATENED TO
CRACK IT TO
ITS CORE?"

ALL THIS TRANSPRIRED AS YOU
STRUGGLED TO SAVE THE GENWORLD.
BUT DID YOU REALIZE THAT FIRE
JADE COULD NEVER HAVE
RISEN SO FAR...

...HAD NOT SOME
GREATER POWER SMILED
UPON HER???



"MAYBE MY MASTERS SUSPECTED YOUR DESTINY EVEN AS LORD AND LADY AMETHYST FELL BEFORE THE ONSLAUGHT OF THE DARK LORD ALL THOSE YEARS AGO!"

"PERHAPS THEY KNEW, EVEN AS DARK CIVIL FEARED HIS ANEMONE THALAMUTERIANS..."

"...EVEN AS THE CHILD AMETHYST HAS BEEN BORN INTO THIS WORLD!"

"OH, PLEASE,
WITCH-MOTHER!
LET ME SEE!"

"AND HOZ,
PRINCESS—DO YOU
STILL WISH TO KNOW
HOW IT WAS LONG
AND LONG AGO—
EVEN UNTO THE
BEGINNINGS OF GEMWORLD?"

"TELL ME NOW,
AMETHYST! FOR
I CAN SHOW YOU THESE
THINGS AND THE BEGINNING
THAT WAS BEFORE THE
BEGINNING!"

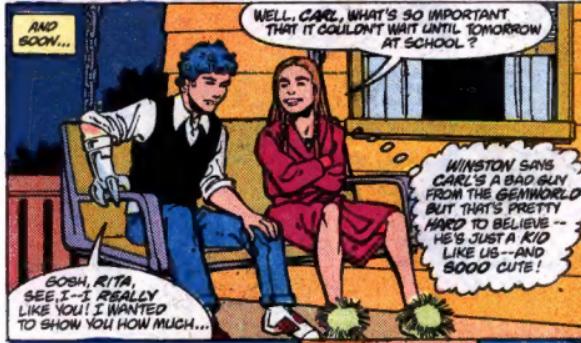
"SO YOU
SHALL, CHILD—
AND UNDERSTAND!
MY MASTERS WANT YOU
TO SEE, TO KNOW,
AND THEN—
TO PAY!"

IN THE WEE HOURS OF MORNING,
LITTLE STARS IN SLEEPY
HUDSON, NEW YORK--

--SAVE FOR A YOUNG BOY PEDDLING HIS
BIKE THROUGH THE STREETS WITH SERIOUS
INTENT, AND ONE THOUGHT ABOVE ALL ELSE:

RITA! I CAN WAIT NO LONGER--
I MUST FIND OUT WHAT
SHE KNOWS, NOW!

PSST! RITA! HEY,
RITA--WAKE UP!







"...THE GREAT MIGRATION"



"GAZE UPON THE GEMWORLD
NOW, PRINCESS -- SEE IT
BEFORE THE INVOCATION!
A PLACE BEYOND NOW!"

"BUT--BUT CITRINA SHOULD
BE COMPLETELY ALONE,
YET SHE'S NOT!"

"SSH--LISTEN,
AMETHYST."

"AND IS
THE BARGAIN
TRULY SEALED,
CITRINA?"

"PERHAPS THE DARKNESS IS MYSELF,
PERHAPS ANOTHER AGENT OF MY
MASTERS' WILL. YOUR CITRINA HAS
NEVER BEEN ALONE IN THIS PLACE--
AND THE HEART OF THE MATTER
IS THE NEXT MOMENT BACK!"

"BROKEN AS THE FORCES THAT
COMPRISING THE GEMWORLD WERE
APART--THE MOMENT BEFORE
CITRINA'S GUIDING VISION
GAVE THEM FORM!"

"FOR ONCE THIS VERY SPACED
WAS ONE OF MANY PLACES
OF RAW MAGIC--ALL REBORN
OVER BY..."

"...THE ANCIENT
ONES!"

"MY MASTERS SPOKE, AND STILL DO SPEAK, THROUGH
NUMEROUS REPRESENTATIVES! AND WHEN THEY HAVE
A WISH--'TIS WISE TO PRAY IT HEED!"

"NOW THE ESSENCE OF REALITY SHIFTED,
AMETHYST! IS THIS TRULY THE
BEGINNING, OR MERELY YOUR
DREAM OF THAT MOMENT?"

"AM I TRULY
CITRINA, OR ONLY
A PHANTASM
IN HER FORM?"

"OH, I DON'T
KNOW AND I
DON'T LIKE WHAT'S
GOING ON HERE!"

"NO MATTER, WE ARE HERE! THE GEMWORLD WAITS TO BE BORN AND ALL THINGS HAVE THEIR COST! BE STILL, CHILD, AND PAY ATTENTION!"

MANY MYSTIC WORLDS HAVE FILLED THIS SPACE, CITRINA, LIVING AND DYING IN TURN!

EACH WORLD HAS HAD ITS SHINING MOMENT, AND WHEN IT PASSED, THIS SPACE WAS ENRICHED WITH ITS MAGICAL ESSENCE!

THAT ESSENCE SUSTAINS OUR MASTERS, AND THEY DO CRAVE IT!

KNOW THAT THE ANCIENT ONES DEEM YOU MIGHTY, EARTHLING, AND TRUST YOU WILL BIRTH A GRAND AND GLORIOUS WORLD!

BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR WORLD WILL ENDURE ONLY SO LONG AS YOU YOURSELF!

WHEN YOUR NATURAL SPAN IS DONE, YOUR WORLD WILL DIE-- AND OUR MASTERS WILL HAVE THEIR MAGIC!

WILL YOU MAKE THIS BARGAIN, WOMAN?

YES! YES TO YOUR ANGT-- I WILL SIGN IT, FOR I WILL LIVE LONG, AND MY WORLD WILL THRIVE, AND YOU ASK NO MORE THAN FAIR PRICE!

THEN IT IS DONE, AND NO POWER MAY BREAK YOUR VOW! THIS PLACE IS YOURS-- MAY YOUR PEOPLE PROSPER AND YOUR MAGIC BE MIGHTY! AND WHEN YOU PASS--

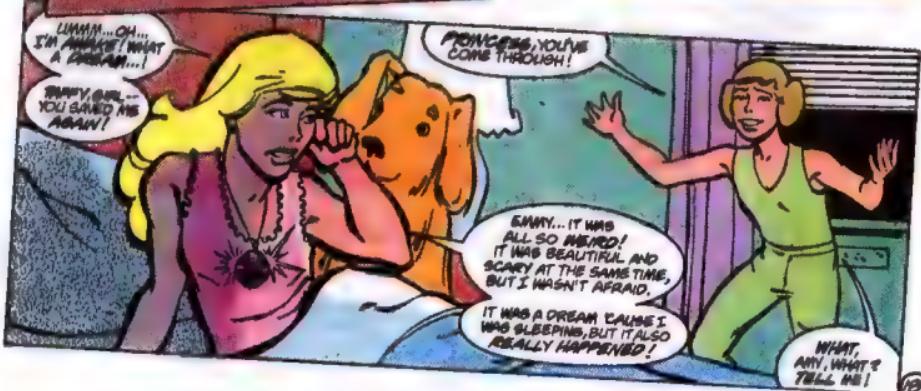
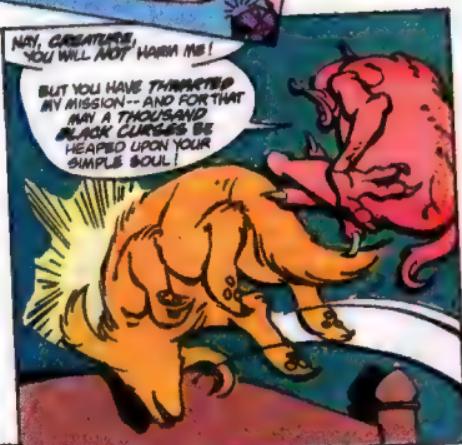
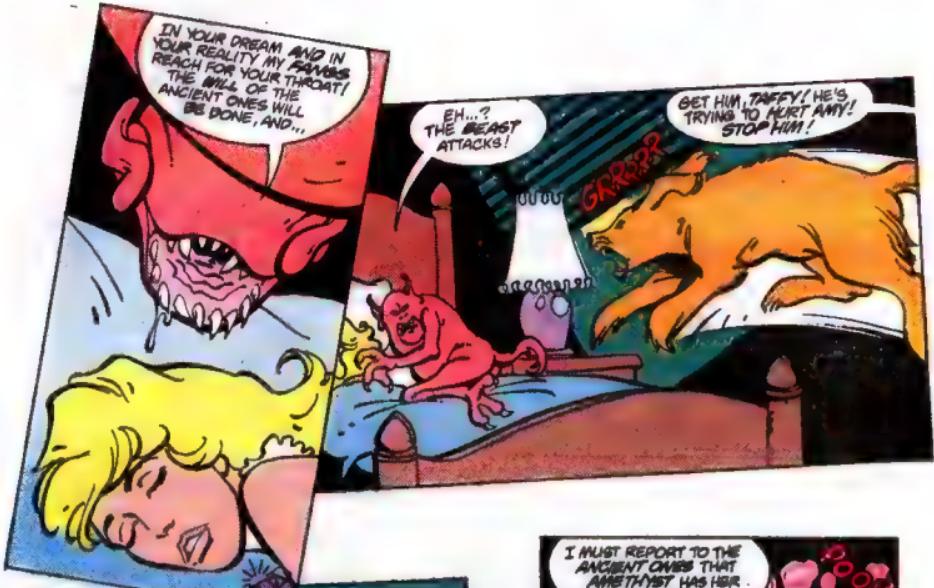
--WE WILL RETURN TO COLLECT!

THEN IT'S TRUE! YOU DID PROMISE THEM THEY COULD HAVE THE GEMWORLD WHEN YOU DIED!

BUT YOU BROKE YOUR VOW WHEN YOU TRANSFERRED THE ESSENCE OF THE GEMWORLD TO ME, SO IT WOULD CONTINUE TO LIVE!

NOW YOU UNDERSTAND, CHILD, THE BARGAIN MUST BE KEPT! AND TO ASSURE THERE IS NO BREACH...









A BEAM OF PURPLE MAGIC
LANCES OUT FROM AMY'S
GEM, AND...

YOU'VE DONE IT!

I-I THINK
I HAVE! I REALLY
HOPE IT'LL WORK.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG
SINCE I'VE BEEN ABLE
TO RETURN TO AND FROM
THE GEMWORLD AT WILL...!

I'M COMING WITH
YOU, AMY! YOU'
LL NEED HELP...

NOT THIS TIME, AMY.
I'VE GOT TO TRY THIS MYSELF!
I'M NOT SURE THE PATH IS
CLEAR ENOUGH, OR THAT
IT TRULY LEADS TO THE
GEMWORLD!

BESIDES, YOU'VE
GOT TO STAY HERE TO
EXPLAIN THINGS TO MY
FOLKS. I'LL BE BACK
FOR BREAKFAST!

SHE'S JUST TRYING TO PROTECT ME.
BUT NOW SHE'S EMBARKING ON HER
GREATEST CHALLENGE, AND WE
BOTH KNOW IT! FOR THIS TIME,
ALL THE GEMWORLD IS AT STAKE,
AND ONLY SHE CAN SAVE IT!

GOOD LUCK, MY PRINCESS!
MAY ALL THE SPIRITS OF
COURAGE SMILE ON YOU!

ONCE MORE SHE EXPERIENCES THE
VAST, OCEANIC PULL OF HER
PASSAGE BETWEEN WORLDS! IT
IS A FEELING SHE HAS HIBERNATED,
AS SHE TRANSFORMS FROM A
YOUNG GIRL TO A YOUNG
WOMAN--IN A SINGLE INSTANT!

THE WAY IS NOT SO CLEAR AS
SHE REMEMBERS, AND STILL
IS PRELUDED WITH PERILS!
BUT NEITHER IS IT SO
BELLYFILLED AS TO MAKE
THE TRIP IMPOSSIBLE!

SHE FINDS THIS
WELL-REMEMBERED
PATH, PICKING HER WAY
BETWEEN MUDANE
AND MYSTICAL REALITY!
FOR A MOMENT SHE IS
DISORIENTED, AND
FEARS HERSELF LOST!
BUT THEN...

I MADE IT!
I'M HOME!

I'M BACK ON...
THE GEMWORLD!

NOW TO FIND
THE ANCIENT ONES
BEFORE THEY FIND ME!

HIGH ON A CRAGGY PEAK STANDS THE
TEMPLE NEVER BUILT BY MAN.
AND, UNTHIN THAT TEMPLE...

...A CONFRONTATION CONTINUES!

SHE HAS RETURNED TO HER REGRET, TRAITOR!
THE MASTERS PREPARE A RECEPTION EVEN
NOW-- AND NEITHER AMETHYST NOR
THIS POOR WORLD WILL SURVIVE IT!

BUT THE ANCIENT
ONES ARE FORGIVING,
AND BID YOU RETURN
TO THEIR
FOLD!

YOUR AGENT
HAS FAILED!
THE QUAKING
HAS CEASED,
AND THE
GEMWORLD
IS CALM!
PRINCESS
AMETHYST
HAS RETURNED.

OF ALL THOSE UPON
THE GEMWORLD, YOU THEY
HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE BEYOND
THE SPAN OF YOUR WORLD,
AS ONE OF THEIR SERVILIES!
IT IS A BOON YOU'D BE
WISE TO EMBRACE!

THAT GIFT I WILL
GLADLY SPURN, DEMON!
FOR THIS IS MY WORLD,
AND THESE ARE MY
PEOPLE! AMETHYST
IS MY PRINCESS--
-- AND I WILL
STAND OR PERISH
BY HER SIDE!

THEN YOUR DOOM
IS CLEAR, FOOL!

IF DOOM AWAITS FOR EITHER
SIDE, CREATURE--

--SO BE IT!

TO BE CONTINUED!

Purple Praise



Dear Purple People,

I have finished reading issue six and am aghast. Sardonyx smashed his gemstone! Since the Sardonyx house is one of the twelve leading houses, the Sardonyx gemstone is one of the twelve major stones. Wouldn't the destruction of the stone create imbalance in the Gemworld? This would be like Germany simply disappearing from earth. Since the stone is destroyed, the Gemworld should experience a tremor or a disturbance of some kind. By the law of conservation of energy, energy cannot be created, nor lost. This implies that the magic of the Sardonyx gem will have to go somewhere. Would the magic be controlled by the diamond priest? We learned in the maxi-series that all magic flows to the diamond when there isn't a person to use it. A more fitting fate is to have the magic transferred to the Gryphon's claw. This way, the magic still remains in the Sardonyx house, and the power of the claw will give Sardonyx a better chance against the goodie-goodie Amethyst (this doesn't mean that I don't like Amethyst).

Amethyst seems to be losing her powers on the Gemworld. She seems to become increasingly weaker, while little Emerald shows no fault. Could this be an effect of living on Earth? Could the power drain have to do with the clog-up of the realm between the worlds? In addition, the slice in the fabric of the universe should cause havoc in reality. Amy/Amethyst will have to do something about cleaning up immediately; maybe, cleaning up will give Amethyst her powers back.

Amethyst forever,
Philip Wong
120 Boy St.
Bristol, CT 06010

The smashing of Sardonyx's gemstone didn't upset the balance of the Gemworld. Philip, because the magic forces behind the twelve royal houses don't have any effect on the actual physical makeup of the jeweled dimension. As for the Lord of the Serpents' power now that his gemstone is gone, that's something we'll be exploring real soon. And speaking about powers, Amethyst's were weakened because she hadn't slept in a few days and the effects were finally starting to show!

Dear Karen,

I'd like to thank you for keeping the heart and soul of Amethyst in the right

place. "Secrets of the Sands" in issue #8 was the best story yet. Emmy's lullabye on page one was just the right touch to start off this excellent issue. Maybe we can see some more of this aspect of the Gemworld's culture in future issues. A ministral or two would seem to fit into the aristocratic culture of the Gemworld, and although it may be cliché, they do make for interesting companions.

The new view of Lord Sardonyx was most welcome. It's a refreshing change to see a comic series without such black-and-white characters, and even though the original maxi-series was based on such a conflict, it's great to see the human sides of the characters start to show through more and more.

It was also well worth it to see more of the Sardonyx realm. Hopefully these spotlights of individual realms, first Aquamarine and now Sardonyx, will continue to show up from time to time. Maybe even a tour of the kingdoms by the High Lady of the Gemworld would be in order. It has been quite a while since the head of the house of Amethyst has shown herself in any kind of official regal function. Also, a map of the Gemworld and its people would be appreciated.

The introduction of Prince Garnet was a surprising move. Here we thought the main cast was pretty much set in stone and along comes a perfectly logical addition to the clan. Here's hoping he lives up to his father's high opinion when he conducts himself in the future.

Speaking of the royal houses, just what are the specific powers of the various noble houses? We know Emerald controls nature and the elements and Amethyst controls magic of a more general and physical nature, but we still know very little of the limitations and strengths of the others.

Sara Sjoberg's letter set off sparks. Here I've been hoping a Fire Opal (my favorite gemstone) would show up to reclaim the Opal throne and now a White Opal kingdom is in the works. Carnelian cannot be ignored in anything to do with the Opal throne.

And finally on a more serious note, let us consider the memory of a friend. The first friend Amy made when brought to the Gemworld. The loyal ally of the House of Amethyst who penetrated Dark Opal's fortress to save Amethyst when she was most defenseless. The brave soul who died in combat trying to defeat the evil of his own father. Yes, I mean the gentle giant Grench. What

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more fitting tributes to Grench's memory could there be than to allow his name to live on in the service of the Lady he fought to aid during the darkest hour of Gemworld's history. Let's hear it for "Grench the unicorn." May you aid your lady as well the second time around.

Thanks for reading and keep those miracles coming.

Robert Bollinger
RD #5 Box 216

Sinking Springs, PA 19608

Just spoke to Amethyst, Robert, and though she liked the idea of naming the unicorn after her dear, beloved friend, she has a different tribute to Grench in mind. As for the name of her winged companion, make sure you're here next month when the winner will be announced!!

Dear Karen and crew,

I just finished reading AMETHYST #6 and was disheartened to see Sardonyx cooperates with Amethyst so quickly. Someone like him should be deceitful and trick her in the end. I was surprised by Prince Garnet's return. I don't mind the return of "dead" characters, i.e. Emerald's sister as Fire Jade, and Prince Garnet, so please bring Dark Opal back! Also show more of Aquamarine, Topaz, the Diamond priests, and the rest of the Gemworld. Keep up the good work!

Chuck Birdwell
P.O. Box 6197
Springfield, IL 62708

The fate of Sardonyx's wife, children, and entire kingdom was at stake, Chuck. No matter how evil and cunning Sardonyx might be, he really had no choice but to wholeheartedly cooperate with Amethyst.

Dear Karen, Dan, Ric, Bob, and Carl,

Congratulations on producing one of the most interesting and unique comic books around. I love the character development—no one remains a simple, uncomplicated stereotype for long! And I love Amethyst's intelligence! I am really writing about the coloring, though. I miss the Colón days when whole pages would be one color, or two kingdoms' colors contrasted on a page. The scenery of Topaz, for example, made the dark, gruesome evil underneath so much more frightening by the cheery yellow exterior. And Amethyst always looked like a dusty, deserted purple

place that retained its faded nobility. Opal looks nice now with all the sparkly colors, like an opal. And Garnet looks like a strong, rocklike, "deep" place to go with its lord (or is it the other way around?). In issue #6, pages 15 and 16 of the Sardonyx domain were lovely, but some of the rest needed more color definition. It made a difference to me.

Sheila Stone
2322 Garnett

Aracata, CA 95621

Every colorist approaches their work differently. Sheila, Tom Ziuko, who colored the maxi-series, favored painting the pages entirely in one family of colors, at times to create a certain effect. Carl Gifford tends to have more direct, yet imaginative, style.

Dear Amethyst,

Amethyst, Diamond, Sardonyx, Opal, Citrine, Turquoise, Aquamarine, Emerald, Topaz, Sapphire, Garnet, Moonstone (whew)—please tell me I got all the houses! I have been trying to find out all of them since I read issue #12 of the maxi-series, which is in fact my favorite AMETHYST comic. AMETHYST now ranks with my favorite comics, if not the favorite, next to the TEEN TITANS.

"Deadly Reflections" showed the one side of Sardonyx we rarely see. It also showed that Fire Jade still lives to cause trouble, although not on the Gemworld. Fire Jade is a great idea and I hope to see more of her. I would also like to see a group or team of gemsters trying to gain power. How about a group of villains called "Blue Star, Black Star, Green Star, and Red Star." All are gems and what better place to put them than on the Gemworld.

But anyway, I want to congratulate you on a fine comic and as long as you keep making them, I'll keep buying them.

Yours truly,

Patrick Bartko
Canora, Saskatchewan

Your royal house count is almost correct, Patrick, with Citrina coming out, and Ruby going in. Interesting ideas about the villain gem team, too!

Dear Purple People,

AMETHYST is really super! But why did you kill the worst bad guy since Darth Vader because of the old ... same ... boring good triumphs over evil and all-lived-happily-ever-after ending? I mean that was it for the good Star Wars movies, because the main bad guy was out of the picture. Well, I can't say Amy/Amethyst will live happily ever after while Carl is living next door, but still I think you should have Dark Opal's spirit come back to haunt her and bug her out of her mind: like talking to her in school and embarrassing her in front of the higher ups, etc. Well, enough with my complaining. (By the way, that is the only complaint I've ever had about the magazine.) Your artwork is so breath-

taking! That alone gets me to buy your comic!

Good Luck!

Lynn Neuenfeldt

New London, WI 54961

Dark Opal may be gone, Lynn, but his evil is not forgotten. Who knows what ramifications the Dark Lord's death might still bring in upcoming issues (hint, hint)! Stay tuned!

Dear Purple Prose,

I was never much of a fan of comic books until my friend introduced me to AMETHYST. I was hooked. I now take great pleasure in saying that I am a loyal subject of the Princess Amethyst and many other comics. The great artwork and story lines are continually fresh, vibrant—truly invigorating. There is no one word to express the uniqueness of this comic. I especially like the way your writers phase Amy from her earthly home to that of the Gemworld. Amy's ability to adapt to any situation and her ingenuity make the story and her character believable.

Thank you ever so much for introducing Amethyst's unicorn. I love unicorns and your artists portray the unicorn as the truly beautiful animal that it is.

Long live the Princess Amethyst and her royal court!

Carris Ann Sager, Age 18

4 Second Avenue

Pemberton, NJ 08068

Happy to get you hooked, Carrie. Hope you're enjoying Ernie's fabulous art as much as we are, because I'm thrilled to announce, Mr. Colon will be staying to draw AMETHYST monthly! Yea!

Dear Sir,

While you're at it, how about filling Turquoise's old role as Amethyst's right-hand woman? The middle Princess Emerald would seem the most natural choice, since the two princesses' mothers were evidently close allies, and since Amy and Emmy have become virtual sisters. The one problem I see is that Amethyst could give Emerald an inferiority complex. Young Amy found herself complimented by everybody she met on Gemworld (even Dark Opal) that she was just like, and as wonderful as, her mother and father. The only time the middle Emerald heard words like that, they were said by Citrina—to Emmy! The middle Emerald may find her subjects' memories of her parents will present her the usual problems of trying to replace a legend. Particularly if Emerald was a typical middle child with her elder and younger siblings receiving most of the power, expectations, and petting; and particularly if she doesn't have the charms of Amethyst, Turquoise, or Topaz. It could be that even outrageous words of democracy by Amethyst would command respect, but Emerald's words could command yawns. This is starting to sound like a He-Man moral story! No, you don't have to sledgehammer the

point, but you could play Emerald as Clark Kent to Amethyst's "Ms. Everything in Gemworld nobility."

My other lady pal for Amethyst may sound like a screwball suggestion, but why not have Amethyst adopt Lady Aquamarine into the Purple house? That teenager and baby are probably pretty naked and alone against former Aquamarine nobles wishing to use them as pawns against Quaar. Amethyst could with one stroke protect them, and also make up to Citrina her decision to stay on Earth. The extra Princess Amethyst could assure the house of an heir, and help guard Citrina in the future while Amy's gone.

May Amethyst long reign,

Gary Thompson

3701 Roosevelt

Dearborn, MI 48124

Many thought-provoking suggestions as always, Gary, but I don't think the Gemworld royalty would go for an Aquamarine princess in the purple noble house. They're a very traditional lot—you're on the throne either by birth or marriage. But your potential characterization idea for Princess Emerald makes a good deal of sense, and we'll give it some consideration.

Dear Karen and Company,

My wife and I followed the AMETHYST maxi-series very closely and found it the most refreshing and totally unique thing in recent comic history! I know this would not have happened if not for the care and dedication of the creative team behind our "Purple Princess"!

The beauty of her name along with her wit, charm, courage, and strength so impressed my wife, Tanis, and I that on July 29, 1984, at 3:40 A.M., I am proud to announce ... Amethyst Crystal Myha Cousins came into our world!

I have enclosed a picture of our little princess, whose first name is entirely the result of your enchanting efforts.

Please keep up the good work and always remember, some nine to ten years from now, a little girl will sit down and read the spellbinding adventures of her magical namesake!

Yours faithfully

until Opal wears rhinestones,
Lyall, Tanis, and Amethyst Cousins

1005 Hickory

Windsor, Ontario, Canada

What can we say, Lyall and Tanis, but, congratulations! We consider it a real honor that our princess affected you so much in the naming of your little Amethyst. Sorry we couldn't print the picture, but for all you readers out there—she's very pretty, has blond hair, hmmm ... I'd be sure to watch your precious princess very closely on her thirteenth birthday!

NEXT: The Gemworld's thrust into deadly darkness as the Ancient Ones make their move! Join Gary, Ernie, and yours truly in thirty days when Amethyst faces her greatest danger!
Take care, everyone—Karen

G U E S T

MEANWHILE...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!...

I remember nervously turning the quarter over and over in my hand, waiting to pay the proprietor at the Rexall drugstore in Overland Park, Kansas. I could barely see over the counter and the change I had from my fresh "Beaver Cleaver" haircut was about to change my eight-year-old life. I had found a treasure. It was an accepted rumor at that time that the big voice that spoke over the ending credits of the 1950's *Superman* TV show had made mention of a "something or other copyrighted feature appearing in Superman magazines!" Magazines? Magazines, not at all like the copies of *Life* or *Look* that screamed of Eisenhower, The Cold War, or Marilyn Monroe from a coffee table in our living room. No, this "magazine" that I clutched tightly in my hands, waiting to pay for, was the first **SUPERMAN** Annual!

It featured a Curt Swan Superman on the cover, surrounded by the many supporting characters that are as integral a part of the DC mythos as the primary characters that we see today. They're emblazoned on everything from raincoats to raisins, peanut butter to parkas, and of course comic books! The DC characters have become as much a part of Americana as Johnny Appleseed or Paul Bunyan. Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, and the lot are as easily identified, worldwide, as Old Glory or the Golden Arches. The band of four-color characters that I'd discovered with the purchase of my first "Superman DC" comic (remember the old logo?) would instill in me an appreciation that would later

be a primary source of reading pleasure and creative gratification.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!...

We were a group small in numbers then, paying "still 10¢" a copy for comic books. (A sophisticated kid like myself could hardly consider these drawn-out dramas and morality plays "funny books.") What with Wayne Boring fashioning trips to Krypton's past, Robin dying at dawn (remember that cover?), plus the issues of **SHOWCASE** spotlighting the characters that a certain Julius Schwartz (the editor's name found in page one indicia at that time, folks) would present, refurbished from the golden age, neatly streamlined, and all "Nineteen-sixty-five"! There was the blond guy with the crew cut that launched a compressed crimson costume from a secret compartment in his ring and became "The Fastest Man Alive"! There was a test pilot that was summoned by an alien lawman to a desolate island in the southwest—let's see, "In brightest day, in blackest night—something something, Green Lantern's Light!" There was Weisinger, Kubert, and Kane—Fox, Finger Infantino, and Broome. And so it went as the kids that were hip enough to read comics fashioned cardboard bat insignias in front of their Cub Scout flashlights, mouthed the Green Lantern oath, swiped a "Great Scott" or two from Superman, or quoted Julie Schwartz's footnotes—i.e. "VTOL: vertical takeoff and landing" or "M.O.: Method of Operation"—that were scattered throughout the Camelot that was the Silver Age of Comics!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR DC...

Remember the public service strips that adorned the inside front covers of so many DC books? Bob Hope, Jerry Lewis, and other personalities gave us the scoop on everything from smoking cigarettes to soliciting for UNICEF.

Remember Superman's sad farewell to President Kennedy? Remember Henry Boltinoff's cartoons—or "Cap's Hobby Hints"? How about the letter columns in the **JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA**? We all chose the actors that would portray the JLA if ever an opportunity for a feature film would arise. I remember—Rock Hudson as Superman, Lloyd Bridges as Aquaman, Robert Taylor as Batman! Little did we know that the sixties and seventies would see Adam West, Linda Carter, and Chris Reeve don their action garb (hmmm... Robert Taylor as Batman still kinda intrigues me....).

How about those Go-Go Checks? How about that "Neal Adams" guy? How about the Hawk and the Dove, the Creeper, the Teen Titans? How about that editor from Charlton comics, Dick Giordano, who would not only contribute editorially, but pencil and ink so many of the milestones in this medium? Dick over Ross Andru in the first *Superman/Spider-Man* tabloid; the partnership with Neal Adams and Denny O'Neill producing the definitive **BATMAN** and the award-winning **GREEN LANTERN/GREEN ARROW** series. It's funny, my first job interview ever was in New York with Dick in 1970 at DC. Now he's Executive V.P. and I'm guest writing his column. Remember watching kids like Paul Levitz, Jerry Ordway, and Steve Lightle put out fanzines? How about LOC's to Julie Schwartz from kids like Mike Friedrich and Bob Rozakis? Big fans with big futures!

To Jenette and Dick. To Pat, to Sal, Julie, and the countless names that I'm sure space will prohibit me naming.

To DC, from all the kids that saluted you by wearing towels tied around their necks, charged imaginary power rings with Coleman lanterns behind the garage, or prayed to see the Bat-Signal sweep the dark midnight sky. We congratulate you on your Golden Anniversary ... we're securely strapped in our Batmobiles for the next fifty years!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Rick Stasi

Somewhere in Kansas City

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CHECK
WEEK OF JUNE 13
L I S T
- Red Tornado 3:** Kathy must find the embittered android to stop the Construct!
- Batman 387:** Black Mask is proving to be Batman's most deadly foe!
- The Flash 349:** The Flash is guilty and he makes a startling revelation!
- Superman 411:** Clark befriends another fired employee, plus Luthor's plan hits phase two!
- Star Trek® 18:** Danger and mayhem await Scotty when all he wanted was Shore Leave!
- Amethyst 9:** The true origin of the Gemworld revealed at last!
- Arak, Son of Thunder 48:** Arak's China adventure threatens to end in death!
- G.I. Combat 279:** The Haunted Tank and three other gory war tales!
- Omega Men 30:** The origin of the Psions as the Wombworld saga ends!
- Legion of Super-Heroes 14:** This is it! Five new members join as the order changes!
- New Teen Titans Annual 1:** Who are the Vanguard and why have they come to Earth?
- Super Powers 1:** Darkseid has returned and the world's greatest heroes must stop him!



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